

Stranahan Stewardship Committee Meeting

June 18, 2014 Old School House Commons 6:30 pm

Members Attending: Diana Batzel, Jim Brimblecombe, John Domey, Jenny Warshow. Absent: Ed Jalbert

Discussion: Jim brought to the committee a request by Chris Martin to extend his pasturing of cows to parts of stand 25 around Kate Smith's house. All members agreed that this was a reasonable request and would recommend to the Select Board that the contract be amended.

Jim also brought to the floor an issue that was discovered during exploration for bike trails and the wetlands presentation; the issue being that there is approximately 10 and ½ acres that have been tapped by his operation that originally was contracted for the conductor system but not the taps. He explained that this did not mean there were any additional taps than contracted for but a mistake that was not caught during the layout. Jim recused himself from conversation (except for clarification purposes) while the committee discussed possible solutions. It was agreed on by the committee that Jim amend his contract and send it to the Select Board for approval. Jim agreed that if bike trails do get laid out in that area he would work with them as long as it did not cause an inordinate amount of labor. He also will place signs of warning and or reflective tape on lines that may pose a danger. The committee also discussed working on some signs of explanation of a working sugar maple stand.

Next on the agenda was discussion of the logging project. Members expressed feelings that the wetland presentation had not cleared up all the confusing issues concerning wetlands. However, we absolutely need to move ahead with the marking of the wetlands in the stands to be logged or they will not get put out to bid for another year. Jim offered to contact Ed to see if he would be willing to do it and commit to a concrete date.

The culvert at the beaver dam on the Thompson Road is no longer safe to drive over; discussion as to whether to repair it was taken up by the committee. It was decided to at least get an estimate for repairs and progress from there.

The Management Plan is due to be updated; the committee agreed this would be a good winter project.

Minutes were approved from 4/21/14 and 5/19/14

Actions: Jim will contact Ed about wetlands marking. Jenny will contact Phil Willey (?) about estimate for repair of road. Diana will go to computer training for town website. Jim will amend his contract.

Decisions: Recommend to the Select Board to amend Chris Martin's contract to include additional pasture land requested. Recommend to the Select Board to accept an amendment from Jim Brimblecombe to include an additional approximate 10 ½ acres on stand 2 between the Guernsey Brook and Moonfield and a line of maples running between stands 7 and 25 on the edge of Moonfield, before the Moonfield Trail.

Next meeting July 21, 2014 @6:30 pm Old School House Commons

Approved: 9/15/14

Prepared by Diana Batzel